

II. REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application as amended, and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested. The Examiner's indication that claims 9 and 10 are allowable is acknowledged with appreciation.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-17 are currently pending. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 14 and 16 have been amended without prejudice. Claim 3 has been cancelled without prejudice. New claim 17 has been added. Support for new claim 17 can be found in the original specification as filed, e.g., original claim 14. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added by virtue of this amendment.

A. Rejection of Claims 1-8 and 11-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-8 and 11-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Imoto et al.

In response, claim 1 has been amended without prejudice to recite a compound of Formula I, wherein the straight or branched chain alkyl portion of the alkylcarbonyl moiety of R₁ has from 6 to 20 carbon atoms. It is respectfully submitted that Imoto et al. fails to teach or suggest this limitation.

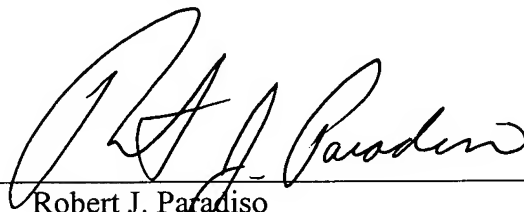
In view of these amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1-8 and 11-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Imoto et al. has been overcome, and that it be withdrawn.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if a telephone interview would advance prosecution of the present application. An early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
DAVIDSON, DAVIDSON & KAPPEL, LLC

By: _____


Robert J. Paradiso
Reg. No. 41,240

DAVIDSON, DAVIDSON & KAPPEL, LLC
485 Seventh Avenue, 14th Floor
New York, New York 10018
(212) 736-1940